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IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

10 ALBRA MCCLAIN,

2:20-cv-581 JAM-KJN

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12 Plaintiff,

13 v.

STATUS (Pre-trial
Scheduling) ORDER

14 PIONEER CREDIT RECOVERY, INC.,

15 Defendant.

16 _____ /

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After review of the Joint Status Report, the court makes the following order:

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SERVICE OF PROCESS

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All parties defendant to this lawsuit have been served and no further service will be
20 permitted except with leave of court, good cause having been shown.

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JOINDER OF ADDITIONAL PARTIES/ AMENDMENTS

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No further joinder of parties or amendments to pleadings is permitted except with leave
23 of court, good cause having been shown.

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JURISDICTION AND VENUE

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Jurisdiction and venue are not contested.

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FICTITIOUSLY-NAMED DEFENDANTS

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This action, including any counterclaims, cross-claims, and third party complaints is hereby DISMISSED as to all DOE or other fictitiously-named defendants.

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MOTION HEARINGS SCHEDULES

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All dispositive motions shall be filed by March 23, 2021. Hearing on such motions shall be on April 20, 2021 at 1:30 p.m.

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The parties are reminded of the notice requirements as outlined in Local Rule 230(b).

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The time deadline for dispositive motions does not apply to motions for continuances, temporary restraining orders or other emergency applications.

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All purely legal issues are to be resolved by timely pre-trial motions. The parties are reminded that motions in limine are procedural devices designed to address the admissibility of evidence and are cautioned that the court will look with disfavor upon substantive motions presented at the final pre-trial conference or at trial in the guise of motions in limine. The parties are further cautioned that if any legal issue which should have been tendered to the court by proper pre-trial motion requires resolution by the court after the established law and motion cut-off date, substantial sanctions may be assessed for the failure to file the appropriate pre-trial motion.

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MEET AND CONFER REQUIREMENT

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In any case where the parties are represented by counsel, counsel contemplating the filing of any motion, except (1) those in connection with discovery motions (which are governed by Local Rule 251(b)); (2) applications for temporary restraining orders or preliminary injunctions; or (3) motions made in prisoner actions (which are governed by Local Rule 230(l)),

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1 shall first contact opposing counsel to discuss thoroughly, *preferably in person*, the substance
2 of the contemplated motion and any potential resolution.

3 If the proposed motion must be filed within a specified period of time under the Federal
4 Rules of Civil Procedure (e.g., a motion to dismiss pursuant to F.R.Civ.P. 12(b), or a new trial
5 motion pursuant to F.R.Civ.P. 59(a)), then this conference shall take place at least five (5)
6 days prior to the last day for filing the motion; otherwise, the conference shall take place at least
7 ten (10) days prior to the filing of the motion.

8 If the parties are unable to reach a resolution which eliminates the necessity for a hearing,
9 counsel for the moving party shall include in the notice of motion the following statement:

10 "This motion is made following the conference of counsel pursuant to the
11 Court's standing order which took place on [date of conference]."

12 The purpose of the meet and confer process is to: (1) determine whether the respondent
13 agrees that the motion has merit in whole or in part; (2) discuss whether issues can be resolved
14 without the necessity of briefing; (3) narrow the issues for review by the Court; and (4) explore
15 the possibility of settlement before the parties incur the expense of briefing a motion.

16 Failure to comply with the meet and confer requirement will result in the dismissal, without
17 prejudice, of the offending party's motion.

18 Unless prior permission has been granted, memoranda of law in support of and in
19 opposition to motions under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 56 and 65 and any post-judgment
20 or post-trial motions are limited to twenty-five (25) pages, and reply memoranda are limited
21 to ten (10) pages. Memoranda of law in support of and in opposition to all other motions are
22 limited to fifteen (15) pages, and reply memoranda are limited to five (5) pages. The parties
23 are also cautioned against filing multiple briefs to circumvent this rule.

24 A violation of this Order will result in monetary sanctions being imposed against counsel in the
25 amount of \$50.00 per page and the Court will not consider any arguments made past the page
26 limit.

1 Documentary evidence submitted in support of or in opposition to a motion must be
2 separately bound or placed in a binder, and exhibits must be separated with labeled tabs that
3 extend beyond the edge of the page. An Index of exhibits must also be included.

4 At least 28 days before the dispositive motions filing deadline, the parties must meet and
5 confer to determine whether they intend to file cross motions for summary judgment. If the
6 parties do intend to file cross motions, the plaintiff must file the opening brief for summary
7 judgment at least 14 days before the dispositive motions filing deadline. The plaintiff's
8 concurrently-filed notice of motion shall indicate the parties' intention to file cross motions and
9 shall notice a hearing date at least 42 days from the date of filing. The briefing schedule will
be as follows. Only four briefs shall be filed:

10 (1) Plaintiff's opening brief (25 pages maximum), along with any other documents
11 required or permitted under Local Rule 260, shall be filed at least 14 days before the
12 dispositive motions filing deadline;

13 (2) Defendant's opposition and cross motion for summary judgment (35 pages
14 maximum) shall be filed at least 28 days before the hearing;

15 (3) Plaintiff's reply and opposition (20 pages maximum) shall be filed at least 14 days
16 before the hearing;

17 (4) Defendant's reply (10 pages maximum) shall be filed at least 7 days before the
18 hearing.

19 These are the only four briefs that may be filed, even if the parties move for summary judgment
20 on more than one complaint (e.g., motions on a complaint and a counterclaim). The parties
21 must obtain permission from the Court to exceed the stated page limitations. The parties are
22 reminded that they may not file a reply to a Response of the Statement of Undisputed Facts.
23 Parties are advised to carefully read Local Rule 260, which permits an opposing party to file
24 only (1) a Statement of Disputed Facts and (2) a Response to the Statement of Undisputed
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1 Facts (with the moving party's Statement of Undisputed Facts reproduced and then admitted
2 or denied, with citations). If the parties do not comply with this procedure and schedule for
3 filing cross motions for summary judgment, but nonetheless file cross motions, the Court will
deny both motions without prejudice and may impose sanctions.

DISCOVERY

6 All discovery shall be completed by February 19, 2021. In this context, "completed"
7 means that all discovery shall have been conducted so that all depositions have been taken and
8 any disputes relative to discovery shall have been resolved by appropriate order if necessary
9 and, where discovery has been ordered, the order has been complied with.

DISCLOSURE OF EXPERT WITNESSES

11 The parties shall make expert witness disclosures under Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(a)(2) by
12 December 11, 2020. Supplemental disclosure and disclosure of any rebuttal experts under
13 Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(a)(2)(c) shall be made by December 18, 2020.

Failure of a party to comply with the disclosure schedule as set forth above in all likelihood
will preclude that party from calling the expert witness at the time of trial absent a showing that
the necessity for the witness could not have been reasonably anticipated at the time the
disclosures were ordered and that the failure to make timely disclosure did not prejudice any
other party. See Fed. R. Civ. P. 37(c).

20 All experts designated are to be fully prepared at the time of designation to render an
21 informed opinion, and give their reasons therefore, so that they will be able to give full and
22 complete testimony at any deposition taken by the opposing parties. Experts will not be
23 permitted to testify at the trial as to any information gathered or evaluated, or opinion formed,
after deposition taken subsequent to designation.

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JOINT MID-LITIGATION STATEMENTS

2 Not later than fourteen (14) days prior to the close of discovery, the parties shall file with
3 the court a brief joint statement summarizing all law and motion practice heard by the court as
4 of the date of the filing of the statement, whether the court has disposed of the motion at the
5 time the statement is filed and served, and the likelihood that any further motions will be noticed
6 prior to the close of law and motion. The filing of this statement shall not relieve the parties
7 or counsel of their obligation to timely notice all appropriate motions as set forth above.

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FINAL PRE-TRIAL CONFERENCE

9 The final pre-trial conference is set for June 4, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. In each instance
10 an attorney who will try the case for a given party shall attend the final pretrial conference on
11 behalf of that party; provided, however, that if by reason of illness or other unavoidable cir-
12 cumstance the trial attorney is unable to attend, the attorney who attends in place of the trial
13 attorney shall have equal familiarity with the case and equal authorization to make commitments
14 on behalf of the client. All pro se parties must attend the pre-trial conference.

15 Counsel for all parties and all pro se parties are to be fully prepared for trial at the time
16 of the pre-trial conference, with no matters remaining to be accomplished except production of
17 witnesses for oral testimony. The parties shall file with the court, no later than seven days prior
18 to the final pre-trial conference, a joint pre-trial statement.

19 *Also at the time of filing the Joint Pretrial Statement, counsel*
20 *are requested to e-mail the Joint Pretrial Statement and any attachments in*
21 *Word format to Judge Mendez's assistant, Jane Klingelhoets*
22 *at: jklingelhoets@caed.uscourts.gov.*

23 Where the parties are unable to agree as to what legal or factual issues are properly before
24 the court for trial, they should nevertheless list all issues asserted by any of the parties and
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1 specifically identifying the disputes concerning such issues. The provisions of Local Rule 281
2 shall, however, apply with respect to the matters to be included in the joint pre-trial statement.
3 Failure to comply with Local Rule 281, as modified herein, may be grounds for sanctions.

4 The parties are reminded that pursuant to Local Rule 281(b)(10) and (11) they are
5 required to list in the final pre-trial statement all witnesses and exhibits they propose to offer
6 at trial, no matter for what purpose. These lists shall not be contained in the body of the final
7 pre-trial statement itself, but shall be attached as separate documents so that the court may
8 attach them as an addendum to the final pre-trial order. The final pre-trial order will contain
9 a stringent standard for the offering at trial of witnesses and exhibits not listed in the final pre-trial
10 order, and the parties are cautioned that the standard will be strictly applied. On the other hand,
11 the listing of exhibits or witnesses that a party does not intend to offer will be viewed as an abuse
12 of the court's processes.

13 The parties are also reminded that pursuant to Rule 16, Fed. R. Civ. P., it will be their
14 duty at the final pre-trial conference to aid the court in: (a) formulation and simplification of issues
15 and the elimination of frivolous claims or defenses; (b) settling of facts which should properly
16 be admitted; and (c) the avoidance of unnecessary proof and cumulative evidence. Counsel
17 must cooperatively prepare the joint pre-trial statement and participate in good faith at the final
18 pre-trial conference with these aims in mind. A failure to do so may result in the imposition
19 of sanctions which may include monetary sanctions, orders precluding proof, elimination of
20 claims or defenses, or such other sanctions as the court deems appropriate.

21 TRIAL SETTING

22 Jury trial in this matter is set for July 19, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. The parties estimate a
23 trial length of approximately 3 days.

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SETTLEMENT CONFERENCE

2 No Settlement Conference is currently scheduled. If the parties wish to have a
3 settlement conference, one will be scheduled at the final pretrial conference or at an earlier time
4 upon request of the parties.

OBJECTIONS TO STATUS (PRETRIAL SCHEDULING) ORDER

6 This Status Order will become final without further Order of Court unless objection is
7 lodged within seven (7) days of the date of the filing of this Order.

8 IT IS SO ORDERED.

9 Dated: May 22, 2020

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/ s/ John A. Mendez
JOHN A. MENDEZ
United States District Court Judge

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